

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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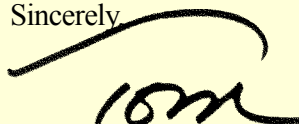
Finding and keeping good workers are among the greatest challenges facing businesses in the 21st century. Today, more than ever, businesses need access to a skilled and diverse workforce. They cannot stay competitive and increase profitability without qualified personnel.

People with disabilities are a source of qualified workers that is frequently overlooked. This pool of workers represents one of the largest groups seeking employment in today's market – some 9 million unemployed Americans with significant disabilities want to work.

Employers tell us that, once hired, this labor source provides some of the best employees within a corporation. They are generally dependable, dedicated, hardworking, and productive. In fact, employers report that the work ethic of disabled employees has a positive effect on the morale and production of their colleagues. Unfortunately, many employers are not aware of this pool of qualified workers. Even those who realize the potential of this labor pool do not know how to reach them and are concerned about the perceived cost and challenge of providing necessary accommodations.

The Center for Workforce Preparation, a nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services have collaborated to produce the guide *Disability Employment 101*. This guide provides information for business, industry and service providers about how to hire people with disabilities and access resources to better meet the growing need of business for a skilled workforce. America's economic success depends on the ability of businesses to recognize and use the valuable and diverse human resources available. Tapping into the talents and skills of people with disabilities will benefit companies and communities nationwide.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TJ Donohue", with a long, sweeping horizontal line above it.